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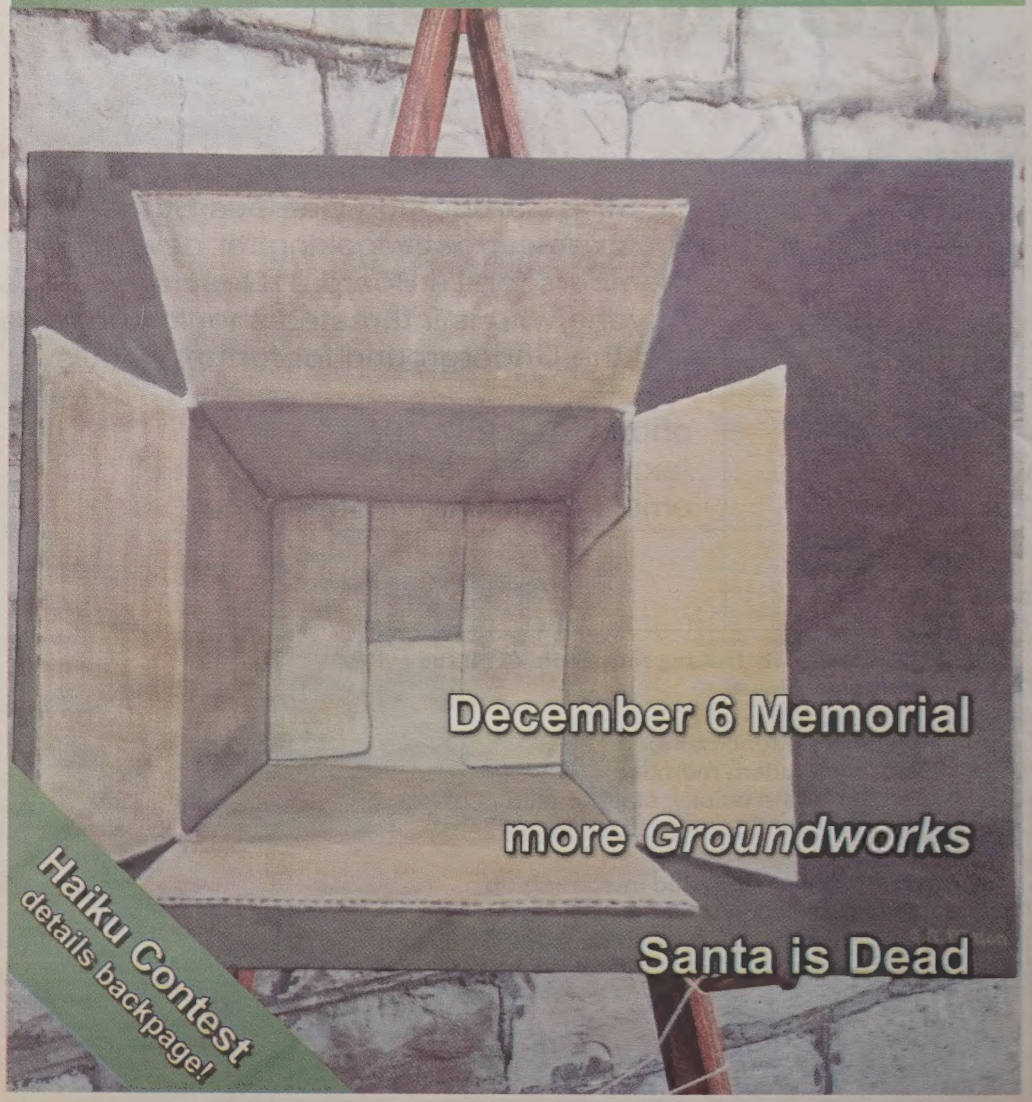
The Underground

UTSC's student newspaper since 1980

Wednesday, December 4, 2002

Volume 22, Issue 13



December 6 Memorial

more *Groundworks*

Santa is Dead

Haiku Contest
details backpage!

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Contributors:
Jeff Rybak, Mike Wilk, Holly Cousineau, Aisha Bukhari, Andrea Oddie, Jake Brigance, Herbie Ku

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At **The Underground** we love unsolicited material, especially letters and opinion pieces. Should such material be typed or printed and delivered to **The Underground**'s snazzy portable by or before noon on the Friday prior to the desired publication date, we will more than likely print it. We kindly ask that submissions be of 800 words or less and that they include the writer's name and student number.

Submissions become the property of **The Underground** and may or may not be published at the whim of *The Editorial Board*. *The Board* reserves the right to poke fun at submissions, post them on the wall in **The Underground**'s snazzy portable (for the enjoyment of our staff and guests) or alter them in print in any way provided it is so acknowledged. By submission, authors implicitly bow down to the total editorial control of *The Editorial Board* and freely consent to the addition witty comments and criticisms (especially in the case of libelous or malicious submissions) courtesy of the snarky editors.

For a more official-sounding **Letters and Opinions Policy** contact ***undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca***

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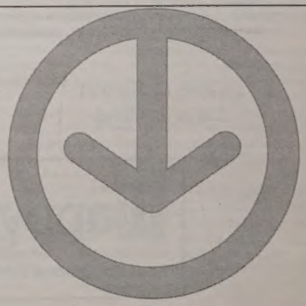
Contacting the Underground Staff

For all inquiries, please use the contact information below. Advertising questions and information should be directed to Chris McKinnon.

Mail: The Underground, U of T Scarborough
1265 Military Trail, Room S-364 (in the portable)
Scarborough, ON
M1C 1A4
Phone: 416.287.7054
Fax: 416.287.7055
Email: haikuvaganza@baldandsexy.com
Web: http://www.scar.utoronto.ca/~undergnd/



editorial

editorial

letters

letters

No those aren't shout-outs...

This is it everybody: The last issue of *The Underground* in 2002. And let the truth be told... I am absolutely ready for this semester to be over. It has been long and painful. Masochist that I am, I enjoyed every minute of it...

And it turns out that a few people have been reading the paper and actually (god forbid) enjoying it. One such man decided to write us a letter this week. If you see Mike Wilk in the hallway, shake his hand... He's got a lot of balls to stand up and shout to the world, or whoever, that he reads this paper. Most of the staff here won't even admit to that.

And it seems that we angered the Senior Seminar Class in Arts Management. Their letter is there too... The Editorial Board has reviewed the statement with which they have taken issue (printed two weeks ago, in Issue 11, in an article entitled "Halucinogenics 101: A Primer") and we have come to the conclusion that we do not wish to retract any statements or make any apologies. **We stand behind our insinuation that Glow might have been a rave.** It sure seemed like a rave. We know for a fact that alcohol was served there, and as for illicit drugs, well, you be the judge. The statement in question, upon reflection, comes across as entirely the opinion of a couple of The Underground's staff (a criticism, I should mention, that has been leveled at this paper in general... Duly noted.) No mention was made of the Senior Seminar Class. Any guilty feelings the Class might have about throwing a rave in the Meeting Place and then trying to cover it up... well... that's not our problem. We take our journalistic integrity very seriously <cough> and we certainly don't try to tell any of you how to throw a pub night (or "multidisciplinary arts event" - read "rave")... So what do we have to say for ourselves? Put that in your pipe and smoke it. We did, and then we went to Glow. And we even had fun!

Finally, as an overworked and underslept editor of a student newspaper, I really need to thank the following people, who have contributed, edited, composed, designed, supported, illustrated and basically made this paper happen: Sachin Hingoo, Greg Brown, Keith Friedlander, Michelle Ng, Merika Ramundo, Kelly and Ayshia, James Relunia, Andrew Epstein, Sarah Barmak, Christian Lucier, Meghan Hurley, Chris Moy and everyone else that wrote and wrote and wrote. Special thanks to all those angry letter-writers and to Geoff Micks for leading the revolution.

Last but not least, I have to thank a certain professor, without whom I could not possibly be the media-whore that I am today... Mark, thank you.

Love,

Chris McKinnon
Editor in Chief

Dearest Underground,

It's been my esteemed honour to enter this institute of higher learning to discover that the student paper doesnt suck. To the contrary it's most excellent and always a good read for my "there's nothing to do in this fucking place" moments of boredom. Crashing on a chair in the S-wing and reading the Underground is one of the few pleasant things to do here... So I commend you kids for producing this thing and for...keeping it real, I know that sounds ridiculous but the Underground generally retains the same complaints and opinions of the student body. When I thought the emergence of mighty Tim Hortons was overblown and very meh, the Underground thought so too! Huzzuh!

I think the "Drug" issue last month was an absolute stroke of genius, I seriously couldnt have agreed more with the points and articles in that issue.

Street Whores on Rez are my new personal heroes...they give me hope that I'm not alone in my spite of many of my peers at UTSC. Also... I would like to declare Sachin Hingoo "coolest motherfucker" on campus. Every piece and opinion I've read by him has been blissfully intelligent, hilarious and honest.

I host a show on CSCR, I play indie rock, real alterative and rave music and usually get people popping into the booth with confused looks, UTSC doesn't seem to dig Bill Hicks, Sigur Ros, Aphex Twin and Ween too much.

Either way I proclaim Sachin and the Strees Whores on Rez as Radio Anagrama's Humans of the Decade. They win a brand new quarter from the show and props from me.

Keep on Rocking in the Exploited World, Keep on feeding Sachin DMT and psychadelics,

- Mike Wilk (Radio Anagrama, Tues. 4pm on CSCR)

Editor's Note: Aw, shucks Mike. Thanks! But we do regret to inform you that we haven't heard from the Street Whores in some time. We fear they might have OD'ed... And keep playing techno. You know what momma likes. -Ed.

To Whom it May Concern:

Last week the Senior Seminar class in Arts Management held Glow: (sub) urban night lights, a fundraiser to raise money for a newly established fund for student initiatives. This event was promoted as a multidisciplinary arts event - with body painting, video art, music, and much more. Last week's Underground issue had a very shocking and inappropriate statement about Glow.

The senior seminar class would like you to review this statement and make a formal apology and publish a retraction in the next issue of the Underground. Though this comment may have been meant as a humourous act, the class put a lot of effort into this project and took it very seriously.

Sincerely,

The Senior Seminar Class in Arts Management

Hate our guts? Wish we were dead?

Send any opinions or letters to the editor to:

Editor-in-chief
The Underground, U of T Scarborough
1265 Military Trail, Room S364
Scarborough, ON
M1C 1A4

or email c_mckinn@hotmail.com with "Opinion" or "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line.

(By the way, we're total masochists, we'll print whatever you send us.)

About the Cover

This week's cover art is a painting. *Untitled, by J. A. Mason*

About the Artist: J. A. Mason

Mason currently lives in Etobicoke, and works a day-job doing "contract admin work," because it allows her the flexibility to take time off to work on her art. After highschool, Mason dabbled as a professional tennis umpire, and briefly considered a career therein. She later attended OCAD for three years of the four-year program, and might return to finish it off "if she ever wants to teach." She is currently at work on a commissioned portrait and another series, and plans to explore the themes of Formula One in the near future. While not feeling unduly influenced by any single artist, she admires the work of Rambrandt and Dali. Plans for next year include a trip to Italy, where Mason's time will be spent exploring and "soaking up the culture" in Florence.

For more information about the artist, or to find out how to contact the artist, please email The Underground.

Happy Solistice,

from the Editorial Board, The Underground and its staff...

Weekly Haiku

by Sachin Hingoo

a christmas haiku (dedicated to the good folks in I3)

Steel Door Champions
Orgies and spankings and beer
Happy Birthday Christ!

comments

Lies university told me...

You'll need that B. Comm. when you're managing a McDonalds

Jeff Rybak

It is a casual assumption in society that students attend school to earn their degrees and receive the education necessary to do certain jobs. Setting aside that group of students who are attending school merely for the sake of education, most would agree they are in school so they can get good jobs. So it would be absurd to suggest that entire perspective on what's happening at school is somehow flawed, right? But it is. There was a time when students were in school primarily to meet the needs of the jobs they were aspiring towards, but that time has passed. Now students are attending school not to qualify themselves, but to over-qualify themselves, for the positions they want.

In the Canadian job market (or the global job market perhaps, since we are becoming a global economy) there are only a finite number of jobs out there, and a whole lot of people competing for those jobs. So regardless of what the minimum qualifications for a given job are, if someone with far more than those qualifications is applying, the person who is merely "qualified" will not get the job. That's the real world. That's competition.

We have people with Bachelor's degrees managing a McDonalds. Is that because it takes four years of university to manage a burger place or is that because the person with the degree couldn't get a better job? We have people with Master's degrees clamouring for entry-level positions in their field. Is that because everyone starts at the bottom? or because six or seven years of university has become the minimum standard to even get a foot in the door? We are tempted to say: "Well, society is complex now, it takes this much education just to learn basic professional skills." But do we really believe that? Do we believe that someone with a B. Comm.could never get started in the business community? Could never learn and work up the corporate ladder? Do we seriously believe that four years of university is required to manage a burger joint? Or that the high-school dropout on the fry machine couldn't be trained to do the job with some night courses?

The fact is we've been tricked into worshipping university for its own sake while not seeing what it is really here for, and what it is really contributing to. When a whole lot of students graduate from high school they look around and say "well, what jobs can we get?" And seeing their few options, the ones who are able go on to university. After four years they ask the same question. And a "mere" bachelor degree doesn't go far anymore either, so the ones who are able go into post-graduate work. And finally, six, seven, or eight years later, and many thousands of dollars of debt later, the field of competition has been narrowed enough that the few survivors might actually find the financial and social rewards at the end of the rainbow. But always remember these students are not working to meet the requirements of the jobs they seek. They are working to outlast one another. They are in an educational arms race the goal of which is to over-qualify themselves for the positions they seek more than anyone else.

Now, I think this whole situation is idiotic, personally, but taken on many levels it isn't that bad. What we are really saying is that society doesn't have positions ready for all our young people right away and so they have to stay in school for a while. And that, of itself, isn't tragic. Especially not when you believe, as I do, that education is valuable for its own sake. Where it becomes a problem is when we consider the huge financial burden of education today. After three or four years of university, unless one's parents happen to be wealthy, education has basically got to pay off somehow in order to justify the cost. And in many cases it does not. Some students inevitably "lose" the educational arms race. Some students find, after three or four years, they don't have the patience, or the academic aptitude, or perhaps even just the money, to continue. So they take their petty bachelor degrees, and their $20,000 of debt, and they find...what? They find a job temping in some office for $9 an hour. It's going to take a long time to pay for all that education with an income like that.

I don't have an exact solution to propose to fix this situation. This is not one problem but rather a collection of forces all conspiring together to leave students in one hell of a crunch. If the job market was stronger, students wouldn't have to compete with each other to such a ridiculous extent to find decent jobs to start their careers. If education didn't cost so damn much it wouldn't be such a problem if some students worked at it for three or four years and then found it didn't really pay off. Maybe they would go back later. Maybe they would turn to vocational training. It's the debt that is crippling, not the time invested. If university itself wasn't in such a schizophrenic identity crisis, caught between the needs of turning out students with highly marketable degrees and the original mandate of learning for the sake of learning, it might be easier to confront this problem without all kinds of bullshit obscuring the issues.

Finally, as was my point last week, the responsibility is on the student. Don't rely on university to steer you straight. University is selling education, not success. And the blithe assumption that the one equates with the other is where so many students go wrong. Learn about the system now, and be aware of the pressures on it, and work to get what you want out of it.

Mr. Lucier, I have to disagree!

Andrea Oddie

Personally I think that Christian Lucier's article "What UTSC community" [Vol. 22, Iss. 12] is an interesting, and thought provoking argument. Interesting in the sense that it brings to light issues and viewpoints that may not have been entertained previously. I would however argue that while his opinions are interesting they are inherently flawed. I think that Christian is missing the bigger picture. He argues that there is no community here at UTSC. Why? Because there is no community that he feels he can integrate himself into. That may be true but I don't think that it is fair to say that there is **no** community here at UTSC. I see a much larger community at UTSC in which each individual club and organization is woven into a larger, broader community. Each part contributes to the whole, much like individual bodily organs are integrated into a working 'living' system. If we superimpose this analogy on the UTSC community the individual organs would be the clubs themselves. Events such as the Fashion show, Cultural Mosaic and Glow would be examples of the working 'living' system (ie: larger community) at work. The larger, broader UTSC is a community that acknowledges the diverse nature of the student body and brings them together. These endeavours show us that clubs do not necessarily segregate individuals but rather they serve as focal points that unite us. They represent a chance to explore and to teach others about worlds unknown.

Our clubs provide a lifeline to individuals. These clubs also, as Christian points out, form 'mini' communities for individuals of a particular background or a particular interest to be a part of. We tend to focus on cultural clubs here at UTSC but we should not forget that there are many clubs that are formed surrounding particular interests. Case in point: the Chess Club, the Ski Club, Club Med, L'association Française, the Environmental Club, LGBTQ etc. These clubs form communities of individuals from diverse backgrounds that share particular interests rather than a particular faith or 'ethnic' background. It should also be noted that if none of these clubs appeal to any particular individual they are welcome to create their own club. The fact is that communities exist in many forms and that it is a conscious choice on the part of an individual as to whether to be a part of a particular community or not. Christian has the option to integrate himself into any number of communities, he chooses not to. Christian believes that "in order to have a sense of belonging… you have to establish what it means to be a student at UTSC." I am afraid that Christian may feel that this means that in order to create a community here at UTSC we are forced to create a nameless, faceless population. A community then would mean a place that does not acknowledge diversity, which incidentally is impossible to do.

We cannot, and should not ignore diversity at UTSC. It is a fact of life. We should welcome diversity, embrace it even, rather than shun it. To not acknowledge diversity would be a crime and more importantly would be a lie. I live in residence here at UTSC and as such I face a diverse group of people each day; namely my housemates. I live with three other people who come from very diverse backgrounds. One is from Taiwan, one is of Jamaican decent, one is from Windsor, and I grew up on a rural dairy farm. I would be lying to myself if I honestly believed that somehow each of us were the same. Janine will never be white, and conversely I will never be black. Evelyn will never really understand what a shift from a rural to urban living is like, and I will never know what it is like to be Taiwanese. We acknowledge our differences everyday and yet this has not prevented me from creating a bond with these individuals. Our acknowledgement of our differences has not segregated and separated us. Instead, it has served to bring us closer together.

In short, I think that UTSC has a very vibrant, broad community which we are all a part of. While individuals may choose not to integrate themselves into this community (for various reasons), it does not mean that it does not exist. It also does not mean that the community is exclusionary. Many opportunities exist to become a part of this diverse (and dare I say exciting) community. One can become a part of the community on the micro level through the various clubs and associations and at the macro level by being involved in and supporting various inclusionary events such as Glow, Cultural Mosaic and the Fashion Show.

(Incidentally I think that Christian's argument at the end of his article concerning UTSC as a satellite campus and an "over-glamourized" high school has merit.....but alas, that is a whole other topic which should be addressed in a separate article. Quite frankly I see this argument as separate from the diversity argument and as such have left out my comments on the matter entirely.)

news

I Got Lost, I'm Sorry!

The diary of deranged News Editor, Gordon Lane (or, "Why there's no news in this paper...")

No one suspected that the coffee mug I had been drinking out of since noon is actually full of wine. The keen observer might have thought something was odd; one mug, seemingly never empty, being consumed for seven hours straight. Comments in class are slightly offbeat and a bit confused. Questions asked by the professor are answered with a mumble, and the answer was probably erroneous. What kind of student would be drunk at two o'clock in the afternoon, especially considering that said student had two eight-page essays due that same day? Well, that would be the reason. Two crucial papers have been handed in, with nothing due the rest of the week. It became a day for art and pleasure.

Between one and two o'clock my day was spent shooting pictures in the valley, trying to catch the juxtaposition of man and nature. The valley is perfect for this, with its shallow and slowly meandering stream, barely knee-deep, the shore lined with life preservers. How could someone possibly need a life preserver when you can't even lie down and drown?

Signs warn against wading in the water, children.

A university ecology project is another beautiful picture; chain link fences topped with three rows of barbed wire in the middle of the forest.

Needless to say, very few of the pictures are in focus, or even exposed correctly.

But all of this is only a preamble to what was to be experienced, and in a way reflects the asinine behavior of much of the University population. We are dirty and pretentious, with little care for living life in the moment.

The end of my last class was at seven o'clock, and by this time I had consumed two bottles of wine, and was working on my third. I met a friend to go downtown to the Arbor Room at the Hart House for WRITuals. Fancying myself a writer, I thought it would be a good idea to see what student writing at UofT was all about.

I made a mistake. I am a very angry man, and when drunk the reputation of my heritage precedes me. I am American, of Irish and Scottish descent. There is no shortage of drunken belligerence here.

Walking into the Arbor Room I was surprised to find that it was full. It was a stark difference from the average meeting of the UTSC Creative Writing Group, whose weekly attendance is little more than a handful. There is something more real, however, about Scarborough's small and dedicated group of writers. They want sex and squirrels, death and pleasure.

The first poet I heard was in the middle of a poem; a very, very long poem. Having by this time finished my third bottle of wine, I had no patience for such malarkey. I wanted short and charged poems. But instead I got windy, Paris style intellectuals feigning at being important and successful. With over two liters of wine in my system, I cannot pretend to recall what the poet was talking about, but I do know his words were long, and his voice was emotionless. The poet after him, the only other poet I remember hearing, was much the same.

The rest of the night was relayed to me the following day. With four bottles of wine gone I was refused service at the Bedford Ballroom. I thank them for their good judgment. After that my anger over the pretentious students at the University was channeled into various belligerent acts of random harassment and testing the homophobia levels of a couple of kids. My friend and I talked with a few attendees of the WRITuals readings, and were again confronted with pretentious poet-writers who scoffed at our ideas of art.

I don't remember getting lost, but apparently I did. But I'm glad I did; it was a true gonzo experience. Searching for the student's dream I found exactly what the world is made of: Gritless men and women floundering under the weight of their parents' wallets, attempting to find their true selves in art, but only finding templates to work with. But the desire *is* there, and maybe one day we will find the way out.

The News In Brief...

Make the Bad Men Stop

Once again this week saw the meeting place transformed into a recruitment center. Instead of MasterCards and Cell phones, this week a proliferation of clubs were clamouring to obtain students membership. The Meeting Place is not used for Meeting, but seems to be focused on gaining student's money and bodies.

Damn Straight I'm Canadian

This week UTSC saw the unveiling of yet another club. The I am Canadian club began operation. The club celebrates all things Canadian, including a "Canada Day" festival to be held in February. Read their flyer and it becomes obvious that the I am Canadian club is willing to poke fun at themselves as well. After all only in Canada can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.

"The News In Brief..." is compiled by The Underground's crazed News Editors, Gordon Lane and Dan Sharpe.

feature feature

Remembering the Montreal Massacre:

National Day of Remembrance and Action in Violence Against Women.

Meghan Hurley

Thirteen years ago, on December 6, 1989, a young man entered the University of Montreal with a .223 caliber semi-automatic rifle. Targeting female engineering students, he went on a killing spree, murdering 14 innocent women. As a violent protest to women studying engineering, a field traditionally male-dominated, deranged Marc Lepine killed these women. Fourteen lives were extinguished in under half an hour by an act of violence that has forever changed our country. The Montreal Massacre was a deliberate blow to the empowerment of women resulting in absolute devastation and worldwide disbelief.

While the shock and horror of the Montreal Massacre helped to bring violence to the forefront of public consciousness, violence against women continues to be a widespread, devastating and life-threatening issue. Murders, such as the Montreal Massacre, highlight the larger picture of male domination and violence that confronts women daily. According to statistics on violence against women in Canada, one half of all Canadian women have experienced at least one incident of violence. It must be recognized that women are being violently abused and murdered in Canada at alarming rates. Unfortunately, with the rates of violence against women on the constant rise, it is not far fetched to warn you that the next victim could be your sister, your mother or your girlfriend. With that in mind, someone close to you may, in fact, become part of the statistics of abused or murdered women in Canada. The question of significance is, what can you do to lower these statistics?

The response to the Montreal Massacre was a declaration by the Canadian Parliament marking December 6 as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against women.

December 6 is a day when Canadians can reflect on actions that can be taken to prevent or eliminate violence against women. Students, staff and faculty are encouraged to talk about issues of violence against women in order to create a heightened awareness within the university community. Inaccurate or demeaning assumptions about women, which are key stepping stones to violence, should be challenged. If these assumptions are brought out into the open and completely undermined, violence against women will surely decrease because women will no longer be perceived as objects that can be abused, but as human beings. Very important to the eradication of violence against women is that men take part in the fight. This is not only a women's issue, as violence affects us all. Men can sign posters on campus to demonstrate their commitment to reducing violence against women. There are a number of possibilities for preventing violence, and these possibilities should be used by everyone as a means of eliminating this epidemic.

Associate Dean at the University of Toronto, Ian McDonald, has become actively involved in the National Day of Remembrance. He recounts the Montreal Massacre as an "overwhelming experience that did highlight the vulnerability of our campus". As a result of his memories of this saddening day, McDonald has committed himself wholeheartedly to the cause of commemorating this day, and raising a consciousness of violence against women. McDonald, along with the help of various organizations on campus, has organized a memorial ceremony which will be held on December 6 in the Leigha Lee Browne Theatre at 10:45 a.m. During the ceremony there will be readings and moving reflections about the Montreal Massacre delivered by various members of the university community. A video excerpt, which McDonald describes as an "incredibly powerful piece", will be shown during the ceremony of remembrance, as well. The day of remembrance will be concluded with a presentation of fifteen roses, fourteen of which are presented in memory of the women murdered at the Montreal Massacre, and one rose presented to remember all other victims of violence against women. McDonald commented that he is "anxious to make the ceremony more than just a memorial". The purpose of this ceremony is not only to remember the victims of December 6, 1989, but also to raise an awareness of the issue of violence against women in hopes that people will do what they can to eliminate it.

Since stopping violence is the responsibility of all of us, we should be actively involved all year in lowering the statistics of violence against women. Unfortunately, the University of Toronto has done less than would be desirable to lower these statistics. However, what they have implemented at the university has proved to be a success. Services such as a safe room in residence for any student that as been a victim of abuse, school codes of conduct outlining unacceptable behavior, and the on campus police force have greatly contributed to ensuring the safety of all students on campus. In addition to these services, the staff at the Women's Centre are constantly working to improve the condition and status of women at the University of Toronto. As Ian McDonald has been the associate Dean of the university for six years, he has noticed that social attitudes are changing and an increasing awareness of violence against women has made change possible. Increasing acceptance of women entering non-traditional occupations, such as law and medicine, has created an atmosphere in which male domination has become less likely. Marc Lepine intended that the Montreal Massacre would terminate the advancement of women in Canada, but he was wrong. Women and men have fought against the epidemic of violence, and have come a significant way in breaking down the barriers that isolate women as victims.

December 6, 2002

December 6th is the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre and the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

10:45 a.m. Memorial, Leigha Lee Brown Theatre

6:00 p.m. Candlelight Vigil – Philosopher's Walk, St. George Campus

arts

Neuroticism, sexual frustration ...and twins

Jonze, Kaufman and Cage talk about Adaptation

Keith Friedlander
Arts Editor

A new movie is coming out from the team that created *Being John Malkovich*; director Spike Jonze and screenwriter Charlie Kaufman. Highly acclaimed and nominated for numerous Oscars, *Malkovich* was a remarkable film debut for Jonze and Kaufman. On December 6 their newest project, *Adaptation*, starring Nicholas Cage, will be released and will prove to be another unconventionally fascinating venture into filmmaking.

The movie was originally intended to be a film adaptation of writer Susan Orlean's best selling non-fiction book *The Orchid Thief*, which follows the life of John La Roche, an obsessive orchid breeder from the Florida Everglades. However in the process of writing the adaptation Charlie Kaufman came to produce something very different and very unique. *Adaptation* is the story of Charlie Kaufman (played by Nicholas Cage) as he struggles to turn the tale of La Roche into a meaningful movie treatment. Plagued by writer's block, sexual frustration and the irritating success of his simple-minded twin brother Donald (also played by Cage), Charlie's frustration eventually forces him to seek out Susan Orlean (played by Meryl Streep), who he discovers is still keeping in contact with La Roche (played by Chris Cooper).

At a recent press interview, we had a chance to hear from the minds behind *Adaptation*, namely Spike Jonze, Charlie Kaufman and Nicholas Cage, as they expounded about the difficulties and quirks of creating such an original and offbeat movie. Many questions were asked as to how close the movie's plot followed the actual events, but as Jonze told us, an essential part of the movie is that ambiguity. "Part of the experience of watching the movie is not knowing where that line is between Susan Orlean, the orchid thief John La Roche, all these things, people and events that are real, really happened and where the fiction is and where the screenwriting took over," said Jonze. "And I guess our worry is to take away from that experience just by trying to define, as soon as you start to unravel that you start to you take out the context."

Cage's dual role as the Kaufman brothers proved an interesting challenge, not only technically but in acting. Along with having to perform every scene twice, playing off his other character's recorded performance, Cage explained the difficulty of switching between such intense but opposing characters. "Well I think I always identified more with Charlie, so I guess that would be my basis. But the hop-scotch between the two, three or four times a day, did get a little confusing, a little frustrating for me, but I think the main thing was just to try and delineate enough without making them become so separate that it became slapstick or goofy, which it easily could have done with Donald."

Not only was it exhausting switching between characters, but Cage went on to explain the difficulties of trying to portray his own version of Kaufman's character. "My impression really wasn't an impression, it was more of a surrealistic interpretation or essence, borrowing some of Charlie's behaviourisms or whatever mental sketch I created when I met him during the interview process," Cage told us. "Spike felt that the Charlie Kaufman on the page cannot be limited just by impression but also open him up to other possibilities, and I think also Charlie felt that way as well."

Jonze elaborated on the added pressure that Cage put on himself for fear of being scrutinized by Kaufman. "He's not playing this Charlie, he's playing the character on page and the scenes that he's playing are very in his head and neuroses and so of course him being in that mindset is only going to be magnified by the fact that Charlie is coming by the set to work with us on a scene, that I asked him to come and listen to the dialogue and see if there's anything from a particular scene that we'd want to change. So Nicholas would end up taking that as, "oh he's watching me and..."

"...And I'm standing really nervously in the background because I'm trying not to get in anybody's way, so I certainly wasn't doing any judging," finished Kaufman.

While talking about Charlie's character and the issues of the overtly neurotic interpretation, the subject of Kaufman's writer's block was brought up. "I can't really give any advice, I can just say what works for me is that I try to let go of my expectations of where I'm going with something and try to see if something else opens up. I find that if I'm very ridgedly directed it's not a good way for me to work and I tend to get lost."

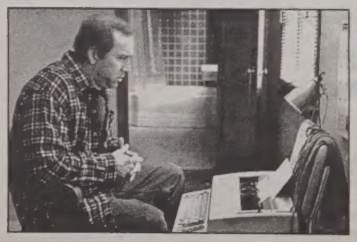
With such extraordinary movies to begin their film careers, it was asked how difficult it is for Jonze and Kaufman to get their movies funded and what difficulties they had with their employers. "The first movie [*Malkovich*] was definitely harder because we hadn't made a movie before and it was harder to get it approved, and we had to make it very small," began Jonze. "In this one because, fortunately enough, that [*Malkovich*] had the success that it did it was easier. This one was also easier because the woman who runs the studio she read the script and really related, really loved the script and the writing. But she loved the script and she was really supportive of it throughout the process, and we were lucky in that way too. And that means also that we had to make this movie in a modest way."

"And I think we like making movies in a modest way. It's like the lower the budget the less they have to worry about so they give you more," said Kaufman.

"And it can be a success on its own terms instead of being a number one box office movie, which doesn't necessarily mean that it's going to be any good," Jonze added.

Adaptation is certainly going to be one of the most unique movies of the year. As Charlie's character moves through the issues encumbering his writing, he comes to confront the mental barriers we all must face in searching for our desires in life. Kaufman's writing moves through perspectives, layers of meaning and through the line of fact and fiction to present a complex story of the most simple and sensible of morals. Brought to life by Cage's dynamic performance and Jonze's beautiful and affective style, Adaptation is will interest and fascinate audiences this December.

Adaptation opens in limited release on December 6, 2002.



reviews reviews

It's a Wonderful Poop Joke

Andrew C. Epstein
Staff Writer

Film: ***Adam Sandler's 8 Crazy Nights***
Starring: Adam Sandler, Rob Schnieder, Kevin Nealon, and Jon Lovitz
Rating: ★☆☆☆☆

Alright, I'm going to keep this one short, because unfortunately this film doesn't really deserve too much. I'll start by saying that if you are a fan of Adam Sandler like I am, please don't go see this film, it will only mar your appreciation of a great talent who has accomplished both deep and shallow roles.

8 Crazy Nights, Sandler's first animated feature, takes on the form of a satirical *It's a Wonderful Life* where the film follows the story of Davey Stone (Sandler). Davey is a former child basketball star who lost his parents in a car crash on the night of his big game. Davey spirals through foster homes and in his adulthood has become a drunken asshole that hates everybody including himself. But most of all, Davey hates the holidays, so he harasses the town, destroys public property, makes kids cry etc. There are laughs in all this mischief, but they aren't big ones. They might make you chuckle, but not for very long, and not in repetition. Sandler relies on the ideas that he's already used more effectively in films like *Billy Madison* and *Happy Gilmore*, and it doesn't pay off.

The rest of the humour revolves around a deformed little man named Whitey (also voiced by Sandler) who takes on the role of Davey's saviour. Whitey has a sister Eleanor (Sandler again) who is a shut-in obsessed with a man who stole her Elizabeth Taylor wig 50 years ago. It's between these two characters that the most effective laughs come from. Eleanor and Whitey are both eccentric enough together to create genuine humour, and not simply go for the poop joke or sex innuendo (don't get me wrong I liked when Sandler did all those things before, but they're far beyond worn out in this film). But that's as good as it gets, and that's certainly not enough to make this film enjoyable.

Believe it or not, this film is actually a musical. Most of the songs don't rhyme, and the best joke in any of them is when Davey wonders aloud if the Jon Lovitz character, who has a hook for a hand, has ever wiped himself with the wrong hand accidentally ("Yes"). However, the film becomes confusing at this point. Most of the songs, along with the most sentimental parts of the film come disguised as cozy holiday schlock. But it's almost a parody of itself. The problem is you can't figure out which way the story is leaning.

For instance, one song sung by Whitey takes all the brand name stores from the mall and rhymes them together,

along with product shots of all the logos. Was this product placement a joke about the commercialization of Christmas, or was it just a cash grab? Even though this film seems to be to leaning towards the parody of cheesy holiday movie, it also seems to embrace that very cheesiness, as the film ends with Davey redeemed, and Whitey's dreams realized. Oh yeah, and Davey gets back together with his childhood sweetheart who didn't share more than four lines of dialogue with Davey the entire film.

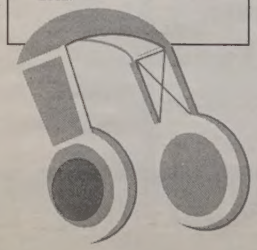
I don't know where this fits in but in conclusion I just want to mention one more scene. This is because I want you to avoid seeing it because I sure wish I had. Gross-out stuff can be funny in the right context but I don't think this film really has one. In this scene Davey has just pushed a port-o-potty with Whitey inside over a hill. Whitey is now covered in shit, and Davey decides to spray him with water to freeze him in an icy shell of human filth. Davey leaves him and Whitey is stuck in that spot until nightfall. Then he sees some friendly reindeer that attempt to free him by licking the ice until it melts. But wait, you think, isn't that frozen shit? You get your answer when one of the reindeer turns to the camera and smiles to reveal that it has a rather large amount of feces just dripping from its mouth. If you want to see Adam Sandler at his best, go see *Punch-Drunk Love* instead of this… thing.

Sigur Rós

...*living up to the hype*

Mike Wilk

Review: Sigur Rós – Massey Hall, October 30th 2002.



Hype is a bitch, bands try and shake it off like a wet dog covered in mud. Sigur Rós is hyped by an army of critics and fans alike, and, much like Radiohead, they affirm their hype in an almost effortless stance. Regardless of all the acclaim, mystique and art-wankery surrounding Sigur Rós, they lived up to all the hype at their recent performance at Massey Hall. Coming straight of the hells of their weirdly titled "( )" album, the band hit the stage at Massey Hall to a perfectly typical audience of indie art rockers, who remained utterly in awe and respect throughout the bands nearly two hour performance. At their most direct, Sigur Rós take the best elements of classical music and apply it to a very cold rock aesthetic. They are from Iceland, and while they have adamantly tried to shake off the cliché image of dark, desolate snowcaps and barren Icelandic land as the imagery to their sound, its undeniably hard when their music is so beautiful yet unfamiliar and otherworldly. The band performed a few fan favorites from their 2000 release *Agaetis Byrjun*, as well as nearly all of the new record. There was very little room for criticism of their performance as all the songs were replicated note-perfect from the album version, but with an added haunting brilliance of their live presence and sound. As soon as lead singer Jonsi Birgisson struck the first few vocal notes of opening song Vaka (also known as "Untitled 1"), the precedent was set for the incredible voice the man has, the voice which truly had neck hairs raising and the audience shivering. While Jonsi's vocals are all in Icelandic or his own gibberish language, Hopelandish, there was still a distinct vibe of heartbreak, and anger that was carried over to the audience in the man's amazingly versatile voice. Understanding lyrics was simply not necessary. The show continued on with the band eventually building to the end of their set with some of their best material; the final two untitled tracks from "( )" which showcased how the band can shift gears from a quiet lovelorn balladry to avalanche-inducing chaos and noise, yet while containing the song with a structure. As a critic it's in ones best interest to find fault, but this was without the shadow of a doubt one of the best live performances I've ever viewed. Living up the hype, and affirming the audience's hopes, surpassing all preconceived ideals of how beauty could coexist in loud, dark music, Sigur Rós did it all.

STEVE MOORE, TEAM MEMBER, RACING IN THE C.A.R.T. SERIES.

groundworks

Naturally Conformed

Holly Cousineau

Blinding me again, cyclical as it is. Soft, smooth, smothering light, streaming, dazzling. Entice the growth, enlighten the world, beautifully and naturally. Sparkles all around, twinkling. So precious (gentle rustle) Death covering youth, youth so near, so far, removing the scars of the old. (a car roars nearby) Disturbances of a natural world. Grass grows through concrete. Trees grow in Perfect rows. The wind abates everything. Shadows illuminate the world (trees are felled and planked)Fences border a perfect ambiance of nature and real estate, (children laugh) chills run through me. Shrubs struggle against wooden shackles to grow crooked. Conformity is everywhere, flies buzz, birds sing, cats prowl, its alive. The wind carries an angry scent, a tree is burnt, the old grass is scorched, it is ugly. Motionless, sitting. The dead grape vine whines for freedom against its white confinement too. A yard, a durance for plants and trees. Blindingly red, reflections of gold shimmer on an artificial pond in an artificial world indulged in the superficial, nature is a prisoner. A tree is light, light is in the tree. Hair flows, like a murky pond, natural.(Children laugh, artificially) Chills resonate throughout, hairs stand on end, trees sigh in the wind, the wind sighs too. The warmth dies away, the cold awaits the sweetness. Creamy arsenic sneaks around the corner. Death. Life, manufactured dignity. Natural abomination, mutation, the perfect mix. A beautiful view. Yellow, sickly, so unwanted, green, fertile, so requested. Stainless, white picket fence, pride and honour. Weeds infiltrate and attack. (beauty is the asset, unwanted invader) The green diminishes, the concrete grows. (motors flatten the hills into straight paths) A fly alights on the white and corrodes away to nothing. Blades tremble in the wind, it whispers, it ripples, it sees all. It feels the hardness of the wall it cannot move. No fear is felt, flies entice the fear, a spider, so ugly, so unwanted, so helpful, destroys the fear and brings the rain. The chill is born.

Change of season

Aisha Bukhari

Dry leaves blow,
rustling along the road
Cold wind gushes,
as green turns yellow
Sun sets earlier
and there is first fall of snow

Nights become darker,
days become dimmer
hope begins to falter
as winter takes its hold.

Logs keep burning,
warm and bright
throughout the winter
throughout the night

Finally sun gets bold
and takes back its hold
snow melts away
birds arise

To find their gardens
coming back to life
leaves sprout, and buds blossom
fragrance and joy
commences spring

life

Crunch Time Crescendo

Christian Lucier
Life Editor

The other day, I read a very interesting article in the *Toronto Star* by Mary Duenwald. It was about how optimism and positive thinking could lead to longevity. The article focused on a number of research studies that held fascinating results. There were two specific studies that caught my interest.

In 1975, a group of 660 people over 50 years of age, were given a series of questions. The majority of the questions pertained to how the participants viewed aging. Do you feel more emotionally stable each year? Is your will to live decreasing as you age? Then in 1998, researchers went to check up on the participants. Surprisingly, those who held a positive view of aging lived on average an extra 7.5 years then those who held a negative attitude towards aging.

Another experiment the article focused in on was a study at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. A psychiatrist named Toshihiko Maruta reviewed some psychological tests that were conducted in the early 60's. There were 800 people who participated. After reviewing the tests, Maruta concluded that 197 of the participants were pessimistic. Maruta then checked on these 197 participants to see how they made out. It turned out "that the pessimists had a risk of death for any given year that was 19 per cent greater then the average."

In her article, Duenwald also touches on the relationships between longevity and the amount of control people have over their lives. Deunwald states that research has shown that "people who are relatively more depressed, hostile or anxious are unlikely to live as long as others." The opinion of Dr. Carolyn Aldwin, a professor of human and community development at the University of California is mentioned in the article. According to Deunwald, Dr. Aldwin believes that we are better off if we do not get into situations where we are emotionally unstable.

All this information brought to mind university and the upcoming midterms/finals. University and exams in general are incredibly strenuous on the body. I cannot count the times a classmate has said to me, "I am going to flunk this test" or "Now that I have handed that paper in, I never want to see it again." The truth is, university pulls and stretches the emotional stability of the student. Sure we have our stress-free times, but for the most part, the average student is on an eight-month emotional roller coaster.

With all the previously mentioned tests and experiments, I began to think whether university is good for the body and I've come to the conclusion that it probably isn't. Personally, when I have a huge test/exam the following day or have to hand in something worth a considerable portion of my grade, I feel uneasy. I tend to question my work and wondering if there is anything else I should be doing. Anxiety haunts me, which tends to cause a high stress level.

Stress is not the only factor that is associated with university. Often, university and its burdensome workload can foster a pessimistic attitude towards life. I often feel like I want to just "live" my life as opposed to being a student who has to continue learning. Ironically, at times I feel like university is holding me back. Spontaneity is generally not a possibility when attending university. The average student has a million responsibilities which tend to consume the majority of his or her time. As well, this particular time of the school year generates a very negative attitude towards life. The end of November and beginning of December is what I like to call the "What's The Use" period. We all have huge projects that all seem to be due on the same day, as well as midterms/finals are looming around the corner. The average university student feels like giving up due to the immense workload that is weighing him or her down, and the biggest fear of all is failure.

I will put forth the following question: "Is University harmful to the body, when taking to consideration the high levels of stress and negativity that is often associated with academia?" Due to the information provided above, I am going to say yes. However, university is and always will be good for the mind and the intellect in particular. So, during crunch time this year, try not to push the limits, for you might actually be right when you say that, "School is killing me this year."

"Five Weeks of No Techno Makes" Sachin Hingoo "Go Crazy"

SANTA IS DEAD

So once again this article is not only short but half-assed, since for the second time this term I've stayed up all goddamn night suffering through the goblins and working on a paper, only to find out that I can hand it in no less than six days late (Monday) with no penalty. I am, as Limp Bizkit deigns to constantly remind me, a chump (hey!). A chump. So, you know, cut me a little slack.

It's the Christmas season again, and for yet another year, it seems to be so much more trouble than it's worth. All of this is pretty cliché at this point, but I still think it's ludicrous to spend upwards of three weeks (or in my case, three days) shopping with money you don't have, just so someone gets to unwrap something unwanted on December 25. In short, Eatons' (or the Bay's, I can't remember) "Spirit of Giving" campaign is total bullshit. Talk to me about "The Spirit of Giving" when you're in line at the Eaton Centre, battling your way through housewives and their screaming spoiled-ass children in order to get that last generic scented candle for that one, or two, or twenty people on your list that you just can't find anything for. This is on top of the fact that you've just come off three weeks of exams, and this day at the Eaton Centre is your 'downtime'. Why don't they, just for one year, put *me* into their Christmas ad campaign, red-eyed and half-crazy from a combination of frustration and whiskey, kicking the shit out of a five year old kid that's in desperate need of a muzzle? Because they're scared, that's why. They don't want to remind you that Christmas is, for many people, essentially a month-long chore, a month-long weight on their mind.

Santa died a long time ago, friends. The Spirit of Giving is more like a deficiency of spirit as we go through the motions: Christmas shopping, the lineup at the wrapping booth (or worse, trying and failing to wrap your purchases yourself, *then* lining up at the wrapping booth), and finally, the big payoff – that fake smile on your friend's face as she says, "Oh yeah...I really *need* one of these 'meditation rocks.'" Fifty bucks well spent.

I don't even need to be writing that this is coming off like Pessimist-palooza, and I'd love to chalk it up to my normally nihilistic attitude or even exam stress, but I can't. I really want to feel good about Christmas like I did when I was a kid, but it seems so much harder now for some reason. I think we'd all like to look at Christmas through those eyes again, but the mere thought of navigating a mall with an exam-frazzled brain is not my idea of fun, especially since I could be using that time to frazzle my brain in other ways.

So friends, I propose a new way to celebrate the holidays, one that should become an institution around the world, and that is the celebration that occurred on rez last Saturday night. Think of it: a whole global community joined together (so to speak) by spankings, exhibitionism, bondage, a few daisy chains, and a few more golden showers, all ending with some unabashed and completely senseless violence. Now that's what I call Christmas.

And as you read this, (yeah, I'm talking to you) getting your trusty red pen out to circle all of the things in this little rant that peeved you, please remember just one thing:

Spell and grammar-check that angry letter before you send it to Chris. He's a stickler for that stuff. See you in January.

the 2003 Awards of
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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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The University of Toronto Alumni Association invites nominations for:

FACULTY AWARD
A $1,000 prize recognizing excellence in teaching, research and professional endeavours.

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD
A $1,000 prize for outstanding contributions by an administrative staff member.

JOAN E. FOLEY QUALITY OF STUDENT EXPERIENCE AWARD
A $1,000 award to a student, alumnus/a, administrative staff or faculty member who has made a significant contribution to improving the quality of academic or extra-curricular student life on campus.

LUDWIK AND ESTELLE JUS MEMORIAL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE
A $1,500 prize recognizing positive and lasting contributions to education and action in the fight against discrimination. Faculty, staff and students may be nominated for this award.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2002, 5 P.M.

For further information or nomination forms, please contact your college registrar or the

Division of University Advancement, J. Robert S. Prichard Alumni House,
21 King's College Circle, 3rd Floor
Tel: (416) 978-6536 or e-mail
linda.wells@utoronto.ca

I Like Jesus

Or what do you do with a drunken saviour erlie in the morning?

Satan's Bakesale

Andrew C. Epstein, "The Lord of Darkness"

I like Jesus... really I do. Most people wouldn't believe me when I say that. The fact is that Jesus and I don't really agree on much. His ideas and theories don't gel with the way I live my life. But that's ok, because you're allowed to disagree with people, even if they supposed to be the son of god. However I like Jesus simply because even though his ideas are different from mine, all he really seemed to want was for people to get along. Jesus wouldn't shun people who were considered outcasts like lepers and prostitutes. No, Jesus was a giver, and he wouldn't dream of making anyone an outcast. No I like Jesus, but I'm pretty sure that Jesus hates all of you.

Seriously now, as his birthday approaches Jesus is probably out there wishing that he'd never been born, then died, then born again, because most people who claim to be his followers, don't seem to be following his principles very well. I'm not going to go into a speech about all the atrocious events throughout history that have been carried out in this man's name. But I will just say that after he saw the amount of people that were brutally tortured or killed because they did not praise his name, he's probably wondering why he sacrificed himself for such a barbaric race.

Even today people who claim to be disciples of Christ are the performers of some pretty un-Christ like activities. The worst part is that many of the people who are doing these things are considered to be great authorities on Jesus and his teachings. Rev. Jerry Falwell preached to his followers that AIDS was mercifully sent down to Earth from God in order to cleanse the planet of homosexuals. Oh and here's what he said after September 11th.

"We have sinned against Almighty God, at the highest level of our government, we've stuck our finger in your eye," said Robertson. "The Supreme Court has insulted you over and over again, Lord. They've taken your Bible away from the schools. They've forbidden little children to pray. They've taken the knowledge of God as best they can, and organizations have come into court to take the knowledge of God out of the public square of America."

Here's what his friend Pat Robertson (host of the TV show "The 700 Club" and modern Christian icon) had to say in response.

"We have sinned against Almighty God, at the highest level of our government, we've stuck our finger in your eye. The Supreme Court has insulted you over and over again, Lord. They've taken your Bible away from the schools. They've forbidden little children to pray. They've taken the knowledge of God as best they can, and organizations have come into court to take the knowledge of God out of the public square of America."

Judge not lest ye be judged? Is that not a principle that is supposed to be upheld in Christianity? If so then that means that many of you are probably more qualified to be spiritual leaders then the actual leaders themselves. To these people spreading the word of Jesus involves hate campaigns and public slander. These people speak for an entire community of people who claim that this is what Jesus wants.

But this isn't limited to public figures. Everyday I encounter people who seem to be rather fond of Jesus, but they also seem to be fond of using him as an excuse for discrimination. Many times have I asked these people "why do you hate homosexuals? Why do you hate Muslims? Why do you hate Jews?" The answer, more often then not is that they felt that that's what Jesus and/or Christianity in general wants them to do.

So since many of you insist on celebrating Jesus' birthday publicly, then do the man a favour and leave your ignorance at home so that the rest of us don't have to deal with it. However if you insist on acting like a self-righteous asshole, then you may as well just forget the name of Jesus, because if you're acting like that, then Jesus has probably already forgotten yours.

the 2003 Awards of

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Applications are now being accepted for the NORTHROP FRYE AWARDS

The University of Toronto Alumni Association is pleased once again to join the provost in sponsoring the Northrop Frye Awards.

One individual prize ($2,000) will be awarded to a faculty member who demonstrates innovative and exemplary ways of linking teaching and research.

One divisional prize ($6,000) will be awarded to a faculty, college, school or department for extraordinary curriculum innovation aimed at strengthening the link between teaching and research.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2002, 5 P.M.

For further information or nomination forms, please contact your college registrar or the Division of University Advancement, J. Robert S. Prichard Alumni House, 21 King's College Circle, 3rd Floor. Tel: (416) 978-6536 or e-mail linda.wells@utoronto.ca

Discover Ski and Snowboarding This Year...

Christian Lucier
Life Editor

This year, the Canadian Ski Council is offering discounts on *Discover Packages* for beginners. *Discover Packages* are completely ideal for the everyday beginner. Not only do they contain rentals, but a lift pass and a one-hour lesson.

Discover Packages are a safe way to ease oneself into the skiing/snowboarding world. For starters, the lift tickets that are included in the packages are only for beginner lifts. This will dilute the traffic on the slopes. Beginner lifts cater to those who need space and a gradual decline, as opposed to black diamond hills, which are like kamikaze runs and attract the daredevils and speed freaks. The one-hour lesson that is also provided in the package is key. The lesson will provide you with the basics in skiing or snowboarding. Emergency stopping, wide turning, and getting on and off the lifts are usually covered in these lessons. However, the best part of *Discover Packages* is the rentals. Renting skies or a snowboard is expensive at any hill, so getting them in a package is sure to lower the cost. Another good thing about rentals is that one can try skiing or snowboarding without having to buy or burrow the equipment.

Colin Chedore, President of the Canadian Ski Council, believes that *Discover Packages* are the most economical way to enter the world of skiing/snowboarding. He states

"Discover packages are always inexpensive. They're designed to give first-timers opportunities to learn without having to spend a lot of money. They're also designed to be hassle-free. Arrive dressed for winter at a ski area and its staff will take care of the rest, including outfitting you in the proper equipment and giving you a lesson to show you how it's done."

Sounds pretty good to me.

Discover Packages are one of the proper ways to learn how to ski or snowboard. They promote safety both for the beginner and for others. It is not rare to see a beginner just strap on a pair of skies or a snowboard and scream down the hill. This method is crazy and extremely dangerous. Foolishness and inexperience such as the above example sticks out like a sour thumb on the slopes. Not to mention it is greatly unappreciated. Just like golf has etiquette, so does skiing/snowboarding.

To obtain more information about *Discover Packages* contact your local ski area. In particular, try calling Kirby, Dagmar, Lakeridge, or Blue Mountain ski resorts. These are just a few local places. For a full list of areas that partake in *Discover Packages*, check out the Canadian Ski Council website at www.skicanada.org. Hope to see you on the slopes.

rants

Commercials That Piss Me Off

Jake Brigance

The Rogers Cable Commercials:

It's on that television guide channel. Doesn't that little I'm-trying-to-be-cute-and-adorable girl piss you off? Talking about "really neat programming" and "rogers cable is a lot like travelling first-class". Well LA-DEE-DAHH little trying-to-be-cute girl! Why don't you take that plane and travel first-class OUTTA HERE?? She's talking about "a little feature called parental-control" as well. TAKE THE HINT you little @#$%!! You should be doing homework and playing with dolls, not looking at violence and sex on TV !

I despise the other commercial for Rogers too. You know the one I am talking about - where all these Rogers home cable-installers talk about their jobs and how fulfilled they are from it. GODDAMN! Did you ever hear such a pack of shit before?? "Putting a smile on the customer's face, puts a smile on my face", or "Each person has different needs, when they need us, we'll be there" and "I like helping people. That's the best part of my job - the satisfaction I see on their faces."

WHAT THE?? All the hell they are doing is INSTALLING CABLE!! That's just running a friggin' wire in the house!! And getting paid for it too! So WHY must they talk like they are giving out food and clothes to impoverished families in third-world countries? If they like to talk like that, then go to Haiti or Somalia where such attitudes are REALLY needed !

The Buck-a-day Computer Store Commercial:

I am sure you all have seen this visual-nightmare before and wanted to puke. You know, with the middle-age looking girl singing "BUCK A DAY CAN MAKE IT ALL COME TRUE" while dancing to a dry club beat? Give me a freaking break here. The commercial itself looks like a kindergarten cut-and-paste job. Ok, she is wearing a tight dress and looking into the camera provocatively while batting her eyes - probably the typical woman in commercial these days. But WHY, for the love of God, is she advertising for BUCK A DAY? She cheapens her very image even MORE by saying "BUCK A DAY" while looking seductively into the camera. So what is for a "BUCK A DAY" ...the IBM or a day's rate for her 'services'? If you know what I am talkin about. I would pay MORE than a buck a day to see that dumbass commercial removed from the airwaves.

The Bell Sympatico High-speed Internet Commercial:

Now, the concept of this commercial is good - Bell gets its message across. By the way you know what I am talking about? The three guys playing basketball and one has to leave cause his friends told him his paper is due the next day? Good concept for use of high speed internet...but what dumbass friends this guy has!

First, if I had bastard friends like that, I'd kick their asses the next day. Real friends don't do that sort of thing. And at the end of the commercial, what are they smiling about? They still have to do their long-ass papers but their friend is DONE already and he can make fun of them when those two are up all night doing it! Perhaps go out with their girlfriends! What idiots..thinking they made a fool outta their buddy when actually they did him a favour! ONE night and he is done!

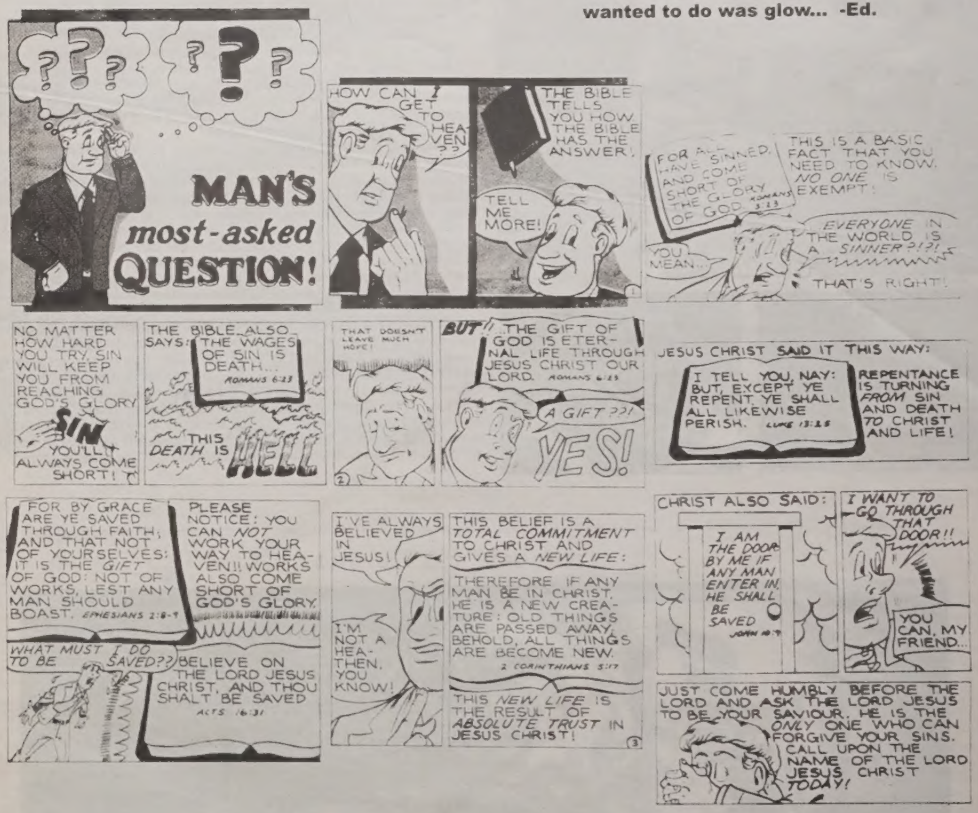
I feel lighter now.

New Year's & Spring Break
PARTY TRIPS!
20,000 students partied with us last year!
Montreal from $229
Quebec City from $229
Daytona Beach from $199
Panama City Beach from $299
Acapulco from $1249
To book a Breakway Tours package, contact:
STA TRAVEL CUTS
www.travelcuts.com
Tour operated by Breakaway Tours Ont. Reg. #'s 2267878 & 2422707. Prices will vary depending on departure point. Above prices based on max. occupancy. Call for hotel options, taxes and transportation info. Complete terms and conditions available at time of booking.

television sucks,
what are you reading?
The Underground
FOR LESS
SAVE!
AXMITH SHOES
CENTRAL

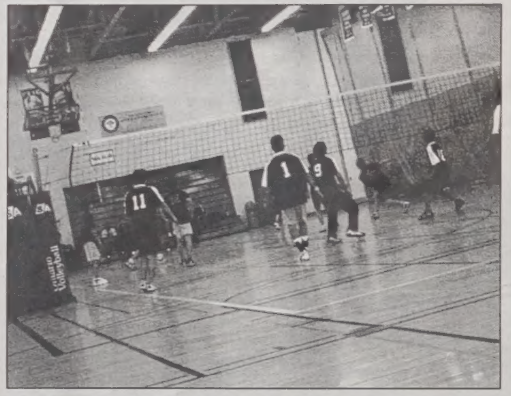
comics

What has been reproduced here should in no way be construed as the opinion of *The Underground*, it's writers, or staff. This cartoon was given to the Editor by a street preacher at the intersection of Yonge and Dundas, several weeks ago... In the spirit of the season, I just thought that maybe the street preacher would have wanted us to print it. No one was paying much attention to him. I felt sorry for him... all he wanted to do was glow... -Ed.



sports

Men's B Division Volleyball Win At Home, Advance to Semi-Finals



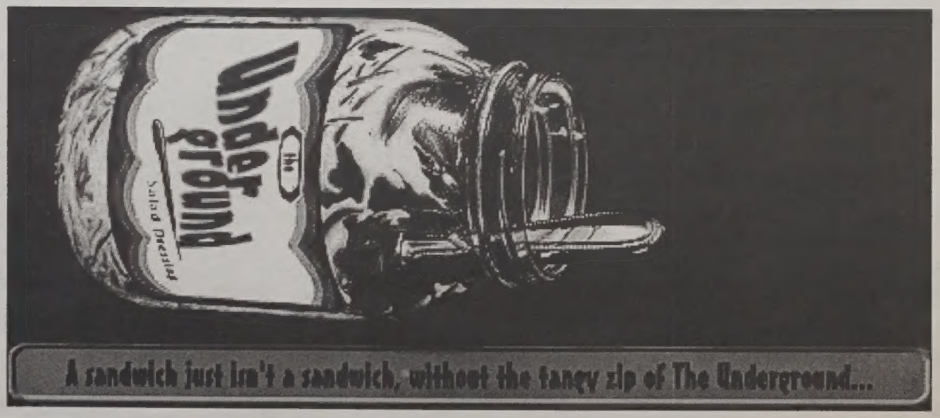
Herbie Ku

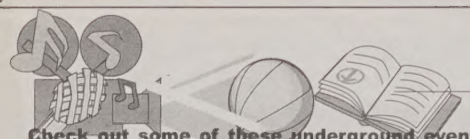
After having to endure 2 forfeits and a bye-week over the last month, the UTSC Men's B Division volleyball team entered the playoffs well rested and injury free. However, playing against Skule B on November 21, the team could have easily have let up given the extended time off. Instead, using its first home game of the season to its advantage, the team stepped up its game and battled hard from start to finish. With the raucous and faithful crowd cheering the squad on, momentum went on the side of the home team even from the start of warm-ups.

The first set was dominated by UTSC right from the opening serve. Thunderous hits and punishing blocks by the squad were used to set the tone early and often. Blocks from Mohammed Abbasi and Joseph Gujol flustered Skule constantly and forced its attackers to adjust its offensive strategy. Meanwhile, sets from Kristoffer Illagen allowed Andrew Kwa, Vincent Cho and Herbie Ku to make automatic kill shots that stifled the defense throughout the first set.

The second set proved to be more challenging, as Skule increased its intensity and level of play. Several miscues and playoff jitters provided easy points for the opposition to build up its lead. However, trailing 18-12, UTSC managed to weather the storm and made an impressive run to regain the lead at 22-20. From there, Skule began to crack under pressure and frustration began to mount. After Skule was called for blatant fouls such as double-hits and lifts, several of its players proceeded to unprofessionally argue with the referee. Much to their disappointment, the calls were not overturned and rightfully so. With momentum already on their side, UTSC cruised to victory the rest of the way. The second unit battled hard throughout the second set as evident by Ken Lee, who played tough despite suffering a recent ankle injury. Elbert Nghiem was his usual self by controlling the offence and providing accurate sets for the front-row attackers. As well, Ronish Gupta played calm and steadily in the back row while Antony Yang was active and constantly dove for loose balls.

All in all, it was a good night for the UTSC squad. With home court advantage, the team took care of business and are now off to the semifinals against a yet-to-be-determined team. The B team takes to the court next week (November 28) at the downtown Athletic Center where it looks to continue its winning ways. Looking ahead, if the team should earn a victory next week, the squad would come back home for the season finale. However, the team refuses to look ahead and are solely preparing for its upcoming tilt. As the cliché goes, the team is taking it "one game at a time."





events

Check out some of these underground events... The following is a listing of events information pillaged from flyers around the city, events websites and other low-key or hard-to-find places. If you know of an event that might benefit from a little bit of buzz (i.e. Ticketmaster is not involved) let us know by sending an email with "EVENTS" in the subject line to: *undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca*

***The Underground* and its staff do not guarantee any information printed in this listing. Do to the often sketchy nature of such events, the details are liable to change, or be outright false. Make use of any contact information provided beforehand.... and otherwise, have fun!**

Dec. 5 Flow 93.5 Old School Skate. Noon-2pm. Nathan Phillips Square. Free.

Dec. 5 Bile, Nocturne and guests perform at the Kathedral. Doors open at 9pm. $15 at the door. 19+ inertia-concerts@sympatico.ca

Dec. 6 Memorial. A program of music, reading, reflection and commemoration on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. 10:45-11:15am, in the Leigha Leah Browne Theatre.

Dec. 6 Cyber Fetish. Explore pleasure and pain at the Vatikan. Mistress Cane, Guest Mistress, Stage show, Dj Rexx, Dj Bolt and Darq. 10pm, $5 at the door. www.gothgoddess.com

Dec. 6. Friday Workshop Series, feat. Mark Crane, "The Use of bonae literae in Sixteenth-Century France". Northrop Frye Hall. 73 Queen's Park, Room 205. 3:15 p.m.

Dec. 6 FREE FRIDAY FILMS AT INNIS COLLEGE. Meet Me in St. Louis. Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave. 7:00p.m.

Dec. 7 Flow 93.5 Urban Skate. 8-11pm. Nathan Phillips Square. Free.

Dec. 7 DARKRAVE v.34 at the Big Bop. 651 QueenW. 10pm-5am. $12 www.djlazarus.com

Dec. 7. Graduates' Christmas Luncheon with Jane Pepino, "Reflections from a Froshie at Mid-Life: What I wish I'd known in 1965", tickets: $15, please contact the Alumni Office to register (416-585-4500), 12:00 p.m

Dec. 9 Public Lecture: **SCREWING THE SYSTEM: MASCULINITIES, MONEY & FETISHISM** by Professor Anne McClintock. Great Hall, Hart House. 7 Hart House Circle, 7:00p.m. Free. Info: (416) 922-8744

Dec. 11-13 Book Buyback. UTSC Bookstore will buyback used textbooks in the Bladen Foyer.

Dec. 12 Flow 93.5 Old School Skate. Noon-2pm. Nathan Phillips Square. Free.

Dec. 12 He And She Fetish Xmas Party and Fashion Show. Strict dress code: Fetish or kink Xmas character. 9pm. $10 at the door, 19+ www.heandsheclothing.com

Dec. 13 "Christmas Around The World" feat. Peter Karrie w/ Richard Birney Smith and Laura Pin
$30 - call 905-627-0757
Ryerson United Church, Hamilton

Dec. 14 CHFI FM 98.1 Family Skating Party. 6-9pm at Nathan Phillips Square.

Dec. 19 Flow 93.5 Old School Skate. Noon-2pm. Nathan Phillips Square. Free.

Dec. 20 "Christmas Around The World" feat. Peter Karrie w/ Richard Birney Smith and Laura Pin
$30 - call 905-627-0757
St. James Church, Cambridge

Dec. 21 EZ Rock 97.3 and MIX 99.9 Evening Skating Party. 8-11pm at Nathan Phillips Square.

Dec. 21 "Christmas Around The World" feat. Peter Karrie w/ Richard Birney Smith and Laura Pin
$30 - call 905-627-0757
Appleton United Church, Burlington

Dec. 23 Palestrina Chamber Chorus performs at the Toronto City Hall Rotunda, 100 QueenW (@ Bay). Noon-1pm. Free.

Dec. 24 Toronto Children's Chorus, Toronto Mass Choir, Toronto Mendelssohn Adult and Youth Choirs perform at the Toronto City Hall Rotunda, 100 QueenW (@ Bay). 11:30am Free.

Dec. 27-29 Designs on Ice. At Nathan Phillips Square. Tolkien's Middle-earth is recreated in ice sculpture.

the 2003 Awards of

EXCELLENCE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

UTAA

Applications are now being accepted for the

JOHN H. MOSS SCHOLARSHIP

A prize of up to $16,650 is awarded to a graduating University of Toronto Arts & Science student who demonstrates outstanding academic achievement and extra-curricular leadership.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2002, 5 P.M.

For further information or nomination forms, please contact your college registrar or the Division of University Advancement, J. Robert S. Prichard Alumni House, 21 King's College Circle, 3rd Floor Tel: (416) 978-6536 or e-mail linda.wells@utoronto.ca

STEAM WHISTLE & The Underground present

The First-Ever Haiku-vaganza Contest

We at The Underground have been consistently overwhelmed, inundated even, with pleas for more, more, more haiku. We even received some great unsolicited haiku (incidentally, our favourite kind.) This got us thinking... Why not put students' creative drive to a higher purpose? Why not create the First-Ever Haiku-vaganza Contest? Why not, indeed.

The Underground and Steam Whistle Brewing have teamed up to offer real prizes this time! 10 lucky winners will receive free shuttle-service from UTSC to Steam Whistle's brewery at The Roundhouse downtown, a special tour of the Steam Whistle plant and more!

To enter: Send your original haiku, name, telephone number and address to
haikuvaganza@baldandsexy.com
If you don't know what haiku is, see below. (A note to plagiarisers: The Underground has a crack team of trained monkeys surfing the web, checking to make sure that all submissions are, in fact, original. Anyone caught pilfering haiku will suffer the wrath of the Editorial Board.)

The Contest opens right now, as you read this ad. The deadline for submissions is December 12, 2002 at 11:59pm. The Underground kindly suggests that individuals not submit more than three (3) poems. Persons or entities that defy us may very well be disqualified, out of pure spite.

10 winners will be selected, from among the qualified entries. The ten finest scribes will be invited to attend a special tour of Steam Whistle Brewing at The Roundhouse. The winning entries will be published in The Underground next January.

What are you waiting for? Go now. Go!

Send your entries to:
haikuvaganza@baldandsexy.com

We may not be able to tell you to drink *Steam Whistle*, but they are the *sole sponsors* of this contest, so we will tell you that *we like the way these kats think!*

Haiku 101:
A Primer for the Unenlightened

Haiku is an unrhymed Japanese poetic form consisting of 17 syllables arranged in three lines with five, seven and five syllables respectively. The haiku was originally a poetic device used to introduce a sequence of verse; it was meant to set the tone of a poem and had to contain mention of subjects such as the season, the time of day, and the dominant features of the landscape. (Source: Webster's Encyclopedia of Literature)

Since nothing is sacred nowadays, "haiku" now refers to a poem, on any subject, that adheres to the five, seven, five syllable arrangement. At The Underground, we prefer this bastardised form, and encourage our readers to experiment with diverse subject matter. A word to the wise, check out back issues of the paper for ideas on what kind of haiku we like. And one more tip...

Anyone can write
about raindrops on trees' leaves
it's not so profound